



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Pipeline and
Hazardous Materials Safety
Administration**

409 3rd Street, SW, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20024

NOTICE OF AMENDMENT

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

December 22, 2008

Mr. Victor Gaglio
Senior Vice President of Operations
Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation
1700 MacCorkle Avenue SE
P.O. Box 1273
Charleston, WV 25325-1273

CPF 1-2008-1007M

Dear Mr. Gaglio:

On October 16, 2008, a representative of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) pursuant to Chapter 601 of 49 United States Code inspected Columbia Gas Transmission (CGT) facilities, and reviewed CGT procedures for accidental ignition, as a result of the reported October 15, 2008 incident at the Leesburg Valve Setting, near Leesburg, VA.

On the basis of the inspection, PHMSA has identified the apparent inadequacy found within CGT's plans or procedures, as described below:

1. § 192.751 Prevention of accidental ignition.

Each operator shall take steps to minimize the danger of accidental ignition of gas in any structure or area where the presence of gas constitutes a hazard of fire or explosion, including the following:

(a) When a hazardous amount of gas is being vented into open air, each potential source of ignition must be removed from the area and a fire extinguisher must be provided.

On October 15, 2008 CGT filed a National Response Center (NRC) telephonic report (Incident Report # 887187) stating that there was a controlled natural gas release that caught fire on a valve setting (Leesburg Valve Setting) on a 30 inch steel transmission pipeline. This CGT transmission line was in a right of way (ROW) shared by Dominion Power 550 KV overhead electric transmission lines.

CGT's procedures do not adequately address steps to minimize the danger of accidental ignition in the presence of a hazardous amount of gas venting into open air near overhead electric transmission lines.

Response to this Notice

This Notice is provided pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 60108(a) and 49 C.F.R. § 190.237. Enclosed as part of this Notice is a document entitled *Response Options for Pipeline Operators in Compliance Proceedings*. Please refer to this document and note the response options. Be advised that all material you submit in response to this enforcement action is subject to being made publicly available. If you believe that any portion of your responsive material qualifies for confidential treatment under 5 U.S.C. 552(b), along with the complete original document you must provide a second copy of the document with the portions you believe qualify for confidential treatment redacted and an explanation of why you believe the redacted information qualifies for confidential treatment under 5 U.S.C. 552(b). If you do not respond within 30 days of receipt of this Notice, this constitutes a waiver of your right to contest the allegations in this Notice and authorizes the Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety to find facts as alleged in this Notice without further notice to you and to issue a Final Order.

If, after opportunity for a hearing, your plans or procedures are found inadequate as alleged in this Notice, you may be ordered to amend your plans or procedures to correct the inadequacies (49 C.F.R. § 190.237). If you are not contesting this Notice, we propose that you submit your amended procedures to my office within 60 days of receipt of this Notice. This period may be extended by written request for good cause. Once the inadequacies identified herein have been addressed in your amended procedures, this enforcement action will be closed.

In correspondence concerning this matter, please refer to **CPF 1-2008-1007M** and, for each document you submit, please provide a copy in electronic format whenever possible.

Sincerely,



For Byron E. Coy, P.E.
Director, Eastern Region
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

Enclosure: *Response Options for Pipeline Operators in Compliance Proceedings*